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**MAILED**  
NOV - 2 2004  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
TC 3600

In re application of : **DECISION ON PETITION**  
Andrew R. Poulter : **TO MAKE SPECIAL**  
Application No. 10/680,446 : **(COUNTER TERRORISM)**  
Filed: October 7, 2003  
For: RUGGED TERRAIN ROBOT

This is in response to the petition filed on April 8, 2004 to make the above-identified application special on the basis of inventions for countering terrorism as set forth in MPEP § 708.02, XI.

The requirements for granting special status under this section are: (A) a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h); and (B) a statement explaining how the invention contributes to countering terrorism.

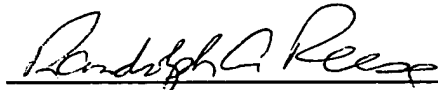
Applicant's invention pertains to a rugged terrain robot. Applicant's petition to make special includes, *inter alia*, a statement by applicant's attorney, Mr. Rick Martin, explaining how the invention contributes to countering terrorism. Mr. Martin states that the "robot allows hazardous material teams to safely and quickly identify dangerous products (explosives, toxic hazards and booby-traps) without exposing personnel to life threatening situations."

Since all of the requirements for special status under MPEP § 708.02 XI have been met, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if petitioner makes a prompt ***bona fide*** effort, in response to each Office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

**SUMMARY:** Petition to Make Special **GRANTED**.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Randolph A. Reese", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Randolph A. Reese  
Special Programs Examiner  
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RAR/rwg: 10/25/04